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Comparison between the reductions in yield loss due to improved drainage or due to reduced schedules.

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Requiring to know which of the two available methods to reduce yield loss due to late sowing would be the most advantageous, a comparison can be made as follows:-

Table 1. (14-day present schedule) shows the number of days the schedule would have to be reduced to produce the same effect as a one-stage improvement in drainage (the usual practical limit). It is arranged in ascending order for a present C class drainage (poor) and the days required for an equivalent improvement range from 3 at Stratford to 4.7 at Bishops Cannings in Wiltshire. For existing D class drainage, in almost all cases, a schedule reduction of 3 days (from 14 to 11) would have the same effect as improving the drainage to Class C.

For existing B class drainage (moderate), the equivalent schedule reduction ranges from 4.5 days at Stratford and Cranwell to over 7 at Wisley, Reading and Holme on Spalding Moor.

The conclusion is therefore that the better the existing drainage (up to the optimum) the more worth while it is to improve it if possible; the worse the drainage the more likely it is that increased mechanization and a reduced schedule would produce better results as far as losses due to late sowing are concerned.

Table 2. (10-day present schedule) suggests that for equivalence to a one-stage drainage improvement the schedule reductions are:-

Class B drainage	3-4 days reduction
Class C drainage	2-3 days reduction
Class D drainage	1-2 days reduction.

These are apparently small, but the schedule is already a short one, so that the farm must either have a fairly small cereal acreage or is highly mechanized.

Any comments or suggestions on this paper should be referred to the author.

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Station	Percentage of yield loss regained by one stage drainage improvement	Number of days reduction from a 14-day Schedule to obtain the same reduction of yield loss with improved drainage		
		Existing drainage		
		B (moderate)	C (poor)	D (bad)
Stratford	2.0	4.2	3.0	2.6
Cranwell	4.7	4.6	3.3	3.0
Sandringham	5.8	5.2	3.4	2.7
Andover	3.6	5.6	3.4	2.6
Bedford	2.7	5.4	3.6	2.7
Worcester	2.5	4.7	3.7	2.9
Horsham	3.7	5.7	3.7	3.0
Watford	3.7	5.5	3.7	2.5
Oxford	2.1	4.9	3.8	3.1
Wimborne	3.1	5.8	3.8	3.0
Newport	4.1	6.4	3.8	2.3
Melton Mowbray	4.5	6.4	3.8	2.9
Writtle	3.0	5.7	3.9	2.6
Cambridge	3.2	5.8	3.9	2.6
Wisley	3.6	7.5	3.9	2.8
Wellingborough	3.7	6.1	3.9	3.0
Sprowston	5.7	5.7	3.9	2.8
Aylesbury	2.6	5.5	4.0	3.2
Holme	4.3	7.7	4.1	2.8
Maidstone	4.4	6.4	4.2	2.9
Cheltenham	2.9	5.3	4.3	3.3
Reading	3.9	7.2	4.6	2.8
Bishops Cannings	4.3	5.0	4.7	3.5

TABLE 1

Station	Percentage of yield loss regained by one stage drainage improvement	Number of days reduction from a 10-day Schedule to obtain the same reduction of yield loss with improved drainage		
		Existing drainage		
		B (moderate)	C (poor)	D (bad)
Andover	2.0	3.1	1.9	1.4
Stratford	1.4	2.9	2.1	1.8
Newport	2.4	3.4	2.2	1.3
Cambridge	1.9	3.6	2.3	1.5
Wisley	2.1	4.4	2.3	1.6
Bedford	1.8	3.6	2.4	1.8
Writtle	1.8	3.4	2.4	1.5
Watford	2.0	3.6	2.4	1.6
Holme	2.5	4.5	2.4	1.6
Melton Mowbray	2.9	4.1	2.4	1.9
Cranwell	3.5	3.4	2.4	2.2
Sandringham	4.1	3.7	2.4	1.9
Horsham	2.0	4.1	2.6	2.1
Wimborne	2.2	4.2	2.7	2.1
Wellingborough	2.6	4.2	2.7	2.1
Maidstone	2.8	4.1	2.7	1.9
Worcester	1.9	3.6	2.8	2.2
Reading	2.4	4.4	2.9	1.7
Nottingham	2.0	3.6	2.9	1.7
Cheltenham	2.0	3.6	3.0	2.3
Aylesbury	2.0	4.2	3.1	2.5
Sprowston	4.7	4.7	3.2	2.3
Bishops Cannings	3.2	3.7	3.5	2.5

TABLE 2